

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE - LLOYD R. GEORGE:LM

APPROVED BY EUR - WSTABLER

EUR/SE - WLEAGLETON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264753

E.O. 11652: GDSL

TAGS: MARR, EAIR, GR, TU, GW, UK, FR, WB

SUBJECT: INTERRUPTION OF AEGEAN AIR TRAFFIC STATUS OF BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 17340, (B) ATHENS 7811, (C) ANKARA 8586

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT ALLIED SUPPORTED FRG APPROACH TO
GREEKS AND TURKS SEEKING AGREEMENT PERMITTING BERLIN-

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ISTANBUL CHARTER FLIGHTS TO OVERFLY GREEK AIRSPACE (REFTEL

A) APPEARS BEST COURSE TO PURSUE. BEFORE RAISING ISSUE FORMALLY IN BONN GROUP, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF JOINT APPROACH WITH FRG BONN GROUP REP, AND DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EARLIER FRG REPRESENTATIONS TO BOTH TURKS AND GREEKS.

2. WE BELIEVE FRG SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN APPROACHES TO BOTH GOG AND GOT SINCE IT HAS GREATER POTENTIAL LEVERAGE ON THIS ISSUE THAN US, UK OR FRANCE, AND BECAUSE FRG HAS MOST IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN HAVING AIRWAY G12 OVER GREEK THRACE TO ISTANBUL REOPENED. ASSOCIATION BY THREE POWERS SHOULD, IN ADDITION TO LENDING WEIGHT TO FRG APPROACH, FORECLOSE ANY GREEK OR TURKISH EFFORTS TO CLAIM THAT PROBLEM OF TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS NOT MATTER WHICH CONCERNS ALLIES, A POSITION WHICH WE UNDERSTAND GREEKS HAVE TAKEN ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION WHEN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH THE FRG. SINCE GREEKS UNWILLING TO PERMIT OVER-FLIGHTS OF THEIR AIRSPACE UNTIL AND UNLESS TURKS LIFT

THEIR NOTAM 714, WE BELIEVE THAT AS FIRST STEP FRG SHOULD SEEK GREEK ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD LIFT ITS RESTRICTIONS ON AEGEAN AIR TRAFFIC IF FRG ABLE CONVINCE TURKS TO LIFT THEIR NOTAM 714. IF GREEKS AGREE TO THIS, FRG WOULD, WITH STRONG ALLIED SUPPORT, RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE TURKS TO RESCIND NOTAM 714.

3. FOLLOWING ITS EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG, US AND FRG REPS COULD THEN TABLE ISSUE JOINTLY FOR FULL BONN GROUP CONSIDERATION AROUND DECEMBER 4. THIS WOULD ALLOW EMBASSIES ANKARA AND ATHENS TO COMMENT ON PLAN IF THEY WISH. KISSINGER

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